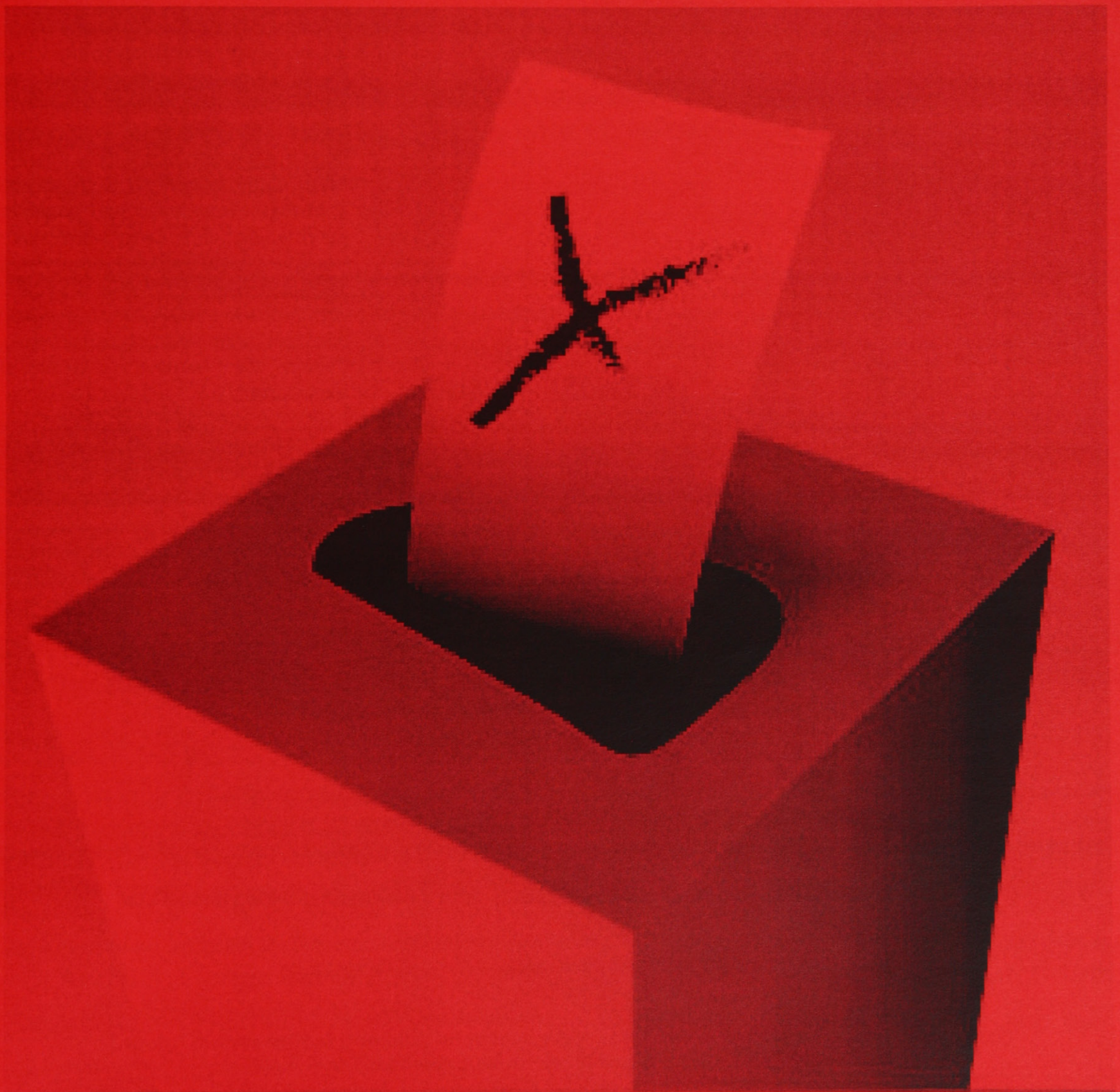


QUID NOVI

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Faculté de Droit
Volume 31, no. 15
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QUID NOVI

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Editorial by Courtney Retter

Writing in Paragraphs

It was one of those sleepless nights. Unable to shut off my mind, I channel flipped until I stumbled upon PBS and watched the program of the night until about 3 a.m. The FRONT-LINE documentary of the week was titled "digital nation: life on the virtual frontier" and its tagline question was whether or not the increasing use of technology created diminishing returns for students. According to the Chronicle for Higher Education, it has. The journal surveyed college professors about basic skills today— as compared to ten years ago— and only 6% of them said that college students come into their classes very well prepared in writing. By a 2-1 margin, professors said that basic skills are worse today than a decade ago. While younger students' literacy rates are improving, as kids get older, and ostensibly more "wired", their reading and writing skills deteriorate.

Apparently, we are all not as academically capable as our student predecessors who lived without digital distractions. Professors no longer feel as though they can assign novels longer than 200 pages and students

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Envoyez vos commentaires ou articles avant jeudi 5pm à l'adresse: quid.law@mcgill.ca

Toute contribution doit indiquer l'auteur et son origine et n'est publiée qu'à la discrétion du comité de rédaction, qui basera sa décision sur la politique de rédaction telle que décrite à l'adresse:
<http://quid.mcgill.ca/edpolicy.php>

Contributions should preferably be submitted as a .doc attachment (**and not, for instance, a ".docx."**).
Contributions should also include the **student year** of the contributor.

LSA AWARDS

Chers étudiants,

Avec la fin de la session qui approche, il est venu le temps d'attribuer les prix de l'AÉD! This is a great opportunity to show your appreciation for the students who contribute to life at the faculty.

The descriptions of the awards are below. Please e-mail me at vp-admin.lsa@mail.mcgill.ca to nominate one of your classmates. The deadline to have them in is March 19th at 12H00.

Your nomination must include the nominee's name and year as well as a description of why she/he should win the award (maximum 250 words).

Les prix seront attribués par le Comité de prix de l'AÉD. Les heureux gagnants auront également une jolie plaque (they will be here at the beginning of summer).

--

LSA AWARD FOR CLUBS is awarded to a maximum of three (3) clubs and student groups who have made outstanding contributions to the Faculty community through the organization of events and activities in the year of the award.

The 2005 PATRICIA ALLEN AWARD FOR PARTICIPATION was created by the LSA to recognize leadership at the faculty in memorial of this Faculty Alumni. It is awarded to any student, up to a maximum of six (6), who has contributed to the Faculty community through participation in extra-curricular and co-curricular activities in the year of the award.

The ALAN NEIL ASSH AWARD is awarded to any student, up to a maximum of four (4), who has contributed to sporting endeavours of the Faculty during the year of the award.

LSA GRADUATING STUDENT AWARD awarded annually to a maximum of four (4) students in their graduating year, who have made outstanding contributions to the life of the Faculty during their years of study.

--

Merci! And don't forget the deadline to e-mail me with your nominations is March 19th, at 12 h00. (vp-admin.lsa@MAIL.MCGILL.CA)

Valedictorian: Angus MacLean Rennie



II believe our class deserves a parting gesture in the form of a thoughtful, well-crafted speech.

A valedictorian should speak as inclusively as possible, and I would welcome the chance to offer my colleagues the fruit of a collaborative effort: Void of inside jokes. A wide canvass of collective experiences. A provocative address of common concerns.

Based on some past life experience as a speech writer, and considering my own love of the poetic, I promise you words which challenge without being smug, uplift without being sappy, that speak of law without being shrouded in inaccessible vocabulary. I want to offer you something our class will find meaningful but that friends and fami-

lies will also appreciate.

Sachez que pour honorer les deux langues traditionnelles de notre faculté, mon discours serait livré en français et en anglais.

If this is the sort of valedictory salute you envision, I would be humbled to weave it into being with your support, ideas and assistance.

Valedictorian: Keith Serry



Scratches head. Reaches into back pocket. Removes a small index card full of promises. Crosses out "never run for anything". Begins.

Vous n'étiez peut-être pas au courant qu'avant d'entrer en droit, j'étais un genre de ventriloque professionnel. J'ai passé des années à composer les discours des autres – des bureaucrates, des ministres... c'était pas pire, comme gagne-pain.

That said, putting words into someone's mouth without conviction can be an unpleasant thing. You find the voice that makes the speaker look her/his best, and then you move on; next issue, next speech. The process can transform something passionate and inspirational into something dead and mechanical. Le cynisme s'installe.

That cynicism, or rather a complete lack of it, may be why I have put my name forward to make this graduation speech. Truth be told, I am stupid-passionate about the last four years. They have been the most important ones of my personal and professional life. Have they been imperfect? Sometimes frustrating? Of course! Mais elles ont aussi été des années de découverte et d'émerveillement.

I would sincerely love the opportunity to share this passion with our graduating class. I thank you for taking the time to consider giving me that opportunity.

Valedictorian: Alexandre Forest



Pourquoi voter pour moi comme major de promotion? Tout d'abord, je me ferai un point d'honneur d'inclure, en proportions équivalentes, le français et l'anglais dans mon discours. Pour ce faire, je vais séparer mon texte en 4 blocs distincts, alternant le français et l'anglais à chaque bloc. Compte tenu de la tradition de bilinguisme de notre faculté, je trouve essentiel que l'on puisse retrouver cette caractéristique dans un discours qui se veut rassembleur et représentatif de tous et chacun.

I also have been devoted to our faculty throughout my 4 years of law studies. It was a pleasure to represent our class as co-president in both first year and fourth year. Last year, my position as VP- Internal allowed me to organize diverse activities for the entire student body. I also took pride in

being part of Skit Nite and Law School of Rock - the two greatest happenings of our faculty. In addition, I played an active role on the Class Action Committee and the Grad Ball Committee. It would be a great honour to conclude my involvement at the faculty by representing you one last time, by being valedictorian of the Class of 2010.

Valedictorian: Rachel Sévigny



Over the past four years I have been an active member of this faculty representing you in various positions on the Law Students' Association. I've been on several committees, Faculty Councilor, VP-Administration as well as President of the LSA and it would be amazing if I would be elected once again to represent you at Convocation this June. I have had the pleasure of meeting and befriending many of you and it has changed my life immensely. I would love to be your Valedictorian. I truly believe that I know what you want and can deliver a great speech for you, your family and the faculty members. Votiez Rachel pour Valedictorian 2010 le 16 mars!

Third Year Class President: Charlie Feldman & Viviane Lentz

Two heads are better than one, and, as your new class presidents, we went tête-à-tête for this joint blurb to say a few words about what we hope to do next year. First things first, we thank you for just the right mixture of support and apathy that put us here, and we hope to make you proud (and hopefully less apathetic!). All kidding aside, we're both really excited for next year and for the opportunity to represent you, our soon-to-be-third-year friends!

Alors, qu'est-ce qui serait important de vous dire dès maintenant? En premier lieu, étant donné que c'est la dernière année où nous serons tous ensemble (et vous allez nous manquer, ceux qui partent en échange!), nous promettons une année qui sera inoubliable et pleine d'activités, tout particulièrement, mais

certainement pas limité, à des activités culturelles. Nous ne cessons d'être épatés par le talent, la créativité et la générosité de cette faculté, mis en vedette encore une fois lors de Skit Nite, alors nous voulons encourager et appuyer toute initiative qui vise à améliorer la vie dans cette faculté.

Pour ce qui est de nos rôles au sein du Conseil de l'AED, nous nous engageons à faire en sorte que l'année prochaine sera différente de celle qui tire maintenant à sa fin. Si vous avez des questions, des commentaires et/ou des inquiétudes, n'hésitez pas de nous les faire parvenir. Nous serons aussi membres du comité organisateur pour le bal des finissants donc préparez-vous à donner votre avis et restez à l'écoute pour les détails! Finalement,

après une absence prolongée, nous espérons (si ça vous intéresse, évidemment) voir le retour de l'annuaire des finissants. Évidemment, il faut trouver un photographe ici dans la faculté....

Encore une fois, nous vous remercions de nous avoir accordé cette opportunité de vous servir. And, in closing, we will not treat you like chattel, but, if we do, hopefully you'll know that you're always fixtures in our hearts! (We leave it to you to guess which of us came up with that joke...)



Second Year Class President: Gabriel Joshee-Arnal



Hey all, my name is Gab, and I'll be one of your 2nd year co-presidents next year. I'm 21 years old, single, reasonable, and in my spare time, I enjoy golf, television, and long walks on the beach.

Since this is a two-person job, I'm not going to promise anything too concrete until I've had more time to talk with my co-president. That being said, I can say two things. D'abord, je vous promets que je vais faire de mon mieux pour organiser une variété d'événements sociaux que vous trouverez intéressants. Second, I will make sure to represent your interests as much as possible within the LSA. In order for this to work, I'm going to need your feedback. Thus, please feel free to chat with me anytime or reach

me by email, phone, fax or carrier pigeon. Je vous écoute!

Second Year Class President: Marc-Etienne Ouimette



2nd year law students!

My name is Marc-Etienne Ouimette and I am your co-president for 2nd year. I look forward to a great 2010-2011, and will do my best, along with my co-president, to make the year a solid one. We will be there to listen, to voice your ideas, and to create events for everyone. To that end, feel free to give us your ideas, and to tell us what contacts/expertise you have that could be of help! Don't worry - we understand that we are not here to re-invent the wheel, or to revolutionize student politics. That being said, we definitely believe we can come up with a few good (and fresh!) ideas that can mark our 2010-2011 experience, and we'll work towards that goal.

A little about me: I am from Sherbrooke, Québec; I have a big Québec accent (in French); I often punctuate sentences with "BOOM!"; I believe a strong forecheck is key to winning at foosball; I am bit older, but not that much; and I've worked a million jobs, from being a garbage man (garbage person?) to working on a pearl boat to working with Jimmy Carter. Finalement, vous devez manger au Julep et déjeuner au Cosmos pour comprendre Montréal, sinon vous manquez de quoi. Venez me voir, on ira ensemble - je peux même vous donner un *lift*!

VP Public Relations: Tara Mandjee



My name is Tara and I am your VP Public Relations for 2010-2011. As the title indicates, I am responsible for the relations between the Faculty and any external group the AÈD will work with. Afin d'établir les contacts et relations externes appropriés pour répondre à vos attentes, je serai continuellement disponible pour développer, avant tout, des relations avec vous.

Comme je suis facile d'approche, n'hésitez pas à me faire part de tout événement, groupe ou ambition quelconque et je mettrai à votre disposition les outils nécessaires à la concrétisation de votre projet. From the financing step to the advertisement one, I will support you with the rest of the AÈD.

The recent fashion show made me realise all the considerations to have to

be taken into account to organize an event up to the Faculty's standards. Representing you and the Faculty as a whole in other activities is definitely a challenge I look forward to undertaking.

Communication, determination and coordination are the aspects of my personality that I will focus on to make sure you get the experience you desire and meet the right people in 2010-2011.

VP Internal: Hélène Vallée



What a privilege it will be to organize events that will make our law school experience so much more than a race to the finish line. If law school is the dance floor I will find the music that will make us move to the rhythm. I look forward to all your ideas even the wildest ones; that's how fun starts!

Catherine Coursol did an amazing job this year and I hope to follow her footsteps with the same energy and passion. Trips, parties, special events, shows, etc.. are on your way. Also look forward to next year's Orientation week.

Pour tout ceci je vais avoir besoin de vous! Je vais avoir besoin de vos idées et de votre implication! Si vous pensez être à Montréal cet été

et que vous voulez m'aider à montrer le "droit chemin" aux premières années 2010-2011 faites-moi signe. Also, if you want to rock on at Coffeehouse next year you can easily do your server training course.

Mais pour l'instant bon courage pour les travaux et les examens! L'important c'est l'entraide! Cheers.

Votre future VP Internal,

Hélène Vallée

VP Finance: Laurie Birbilas



Hey, my name is **Laurie Birbilas** ('Bur-bill-iss') and I'm excited to be your VP Finance next year! After noticing that the VP Finance position was vacant after not only one but two extensions of the nomination period, I realized that my dream to crunch numbers for the LSA could come true.

I studied management in undergrad and have experience in accounting, so you can expect good things for the budgeting of our legal tender. I look forward to getting to know many of you better, so if you ever have questions or suggestions, don't hesitate to send me an e-mail or approach me in person. :)

VP External: Kirk Emery



I'm Kirk Emery and I'm a VP-External candidate in the upcoming LSA elections. I was born and raised in the country outside of a small town in New Brunswick. Leaving Sussex, I moved to Halifax where I earned an undergraduate degree with an Honours in philosophy and a minor in English. I've also lived in a city in Texas and a small village in the south of France. In both of those places, I was pursuing an earlier passion, bicycle racing.

I'd like to be your VP-External because I love working with people, and the political process. As your representative, my job would be to personify the collective interests of you and your peers. While keeping an eye open for new opportunities to further your interests, I will pick up where our current VP External, Joel Lightbound,

leaves off.

Plus spécifiquement, j'envisage rétablir notre relation avec l'AEUM (SSMU) en m'assurant que les voix des étudiants en droit à McGill sont entendues aux réunions de l'AEUM. Je travaillerai aussi avec la CADED (Confédération des associations d'étudiants en droit civil) pour promouvoir l'accès à la justice et améliorer notre régime d'aide juridique.

I'm grateful for your support - together we can make this fantastic experience even better!

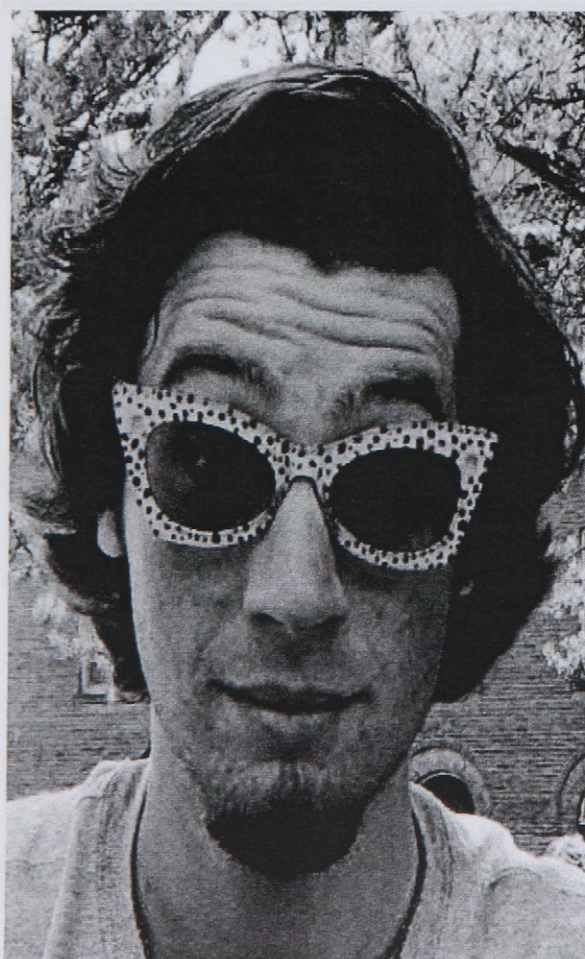
VP External: Lady Africa Sheppard



This is the story of a girl, who wants to be the LSA VP External. My name is Lady Africa Sheppard and that's what I want to do. Basically, the VP External is responsible for representing the faculty, be it at SSMU, at the CADED (Confédération des étudiants en droit civil - where all five civil law faculties are represented) and generally to anything external to the faculty. I am your voice and your ears at these different organizations and at large. Je crois avoir l'énergie et dynamisme requis pour nous représenter efficacement. Bilingue et ouverte d'esprit, je suis à l'image de Montréal, ma ville natale. J'ai le Québec dans l'âme et j'ai noué des liens à travers la province; d'ailleurs je connais des étudiants dans toutes les autres facultés de droit civil. As a law-games alum, I've had the occasion to meet students from other universities and as VP External I hope to increase the num-

ber of inter-faculty activities. Promoting McGill's image as a faculty open to others, a faculty that has things to offer and things to learn, is important to me and important for all of us. Vote for a voice for all, vote Lady Africa.

VP Clubs and Services: Mason Gordon



Hello all,

My name is Mason Gordon and I'm going to be your LSA VP of Clubs and Services for 2010-2011.

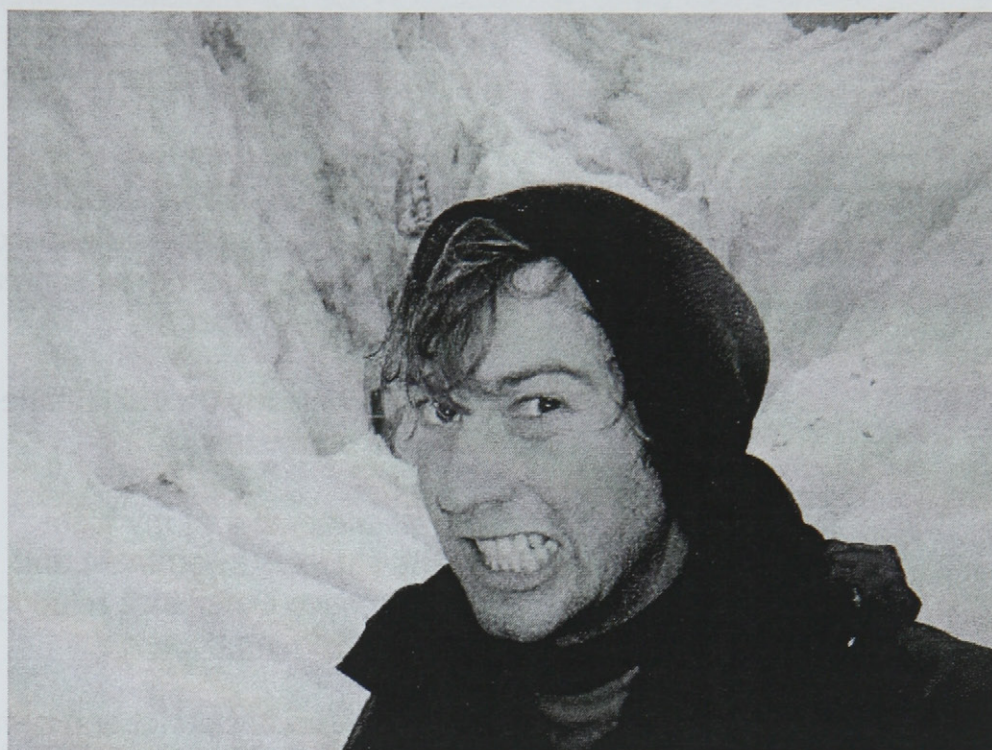
I will be managing the production of the Agenda and of the Student Directory, coordinating the funding of the faculty clubs and working to bring you various activities. Regarding clubs, I enjoy those held together with cocktail sticks, which include, but are not limited to, three slices of bread, turkey, bacon, lettuce, tomatoes and cheese. Without prejudice to the foregoing, I also like the night ones downtown and those on playing cards, but I am pretty indifferent to those wielded by cavemen. Those closest to my heart, however, are those of this faculty: the McGill tradition that I will be committing myself to throughout the upcoming year. I will also work towards enhancing student services and faculty activities.

Please don't ever hesitate to give me suggestions, share your ideas, ask me anything or just chat. And of course, please tell me if I can ever be of any...service. I look forward to an enjoyable and eventful year with all of you.

VP Athletics : Mike Finley

Hi Everybody! My name is Mike Finley and I'm going to be your VP Athletics for next year (No worries, I was acclaimed, I'm not quite that overconfident). I think that sports are a great way to bring the McGill Law community together, and I'm excited to get started organizing events and promoting athletics here at the faculty. Marianne has done an awesome job this year, I'd like to continue in her footsteps and organize new events like curling nights or beer pong tournaments (if the faculty lets me, I think it counts as a sport). Il y a plusieurs des étudiants qui ont organisé tout seul des événements sportifs cette année (des sorties d'escalade, par exemple) et je voudrais appuyer ces efforts avec les ressources de l'AED. J'aime toute sorte d'initiative sportif (ou quasi-sportif) donc, si vous avez une idée,

n'hésitez pas de me contacter! There will, of course, be sweatshirts as usual.



VP Administration: Farah Goulamhousen



Je m'appelle Farah Goulamhousen et je me présente au poste de VP Administration au sein du LSA pour l'année 2010-2011. Pourquoi moi et pourquoi admin? Soyons honnête, je suis maniaque d'organisation, de planification et de gestion. La fille assise derrière le bureau, devant un ordinateur à longueur de journée, qui fait que les autres ont les outils administratifs pour exécuter leur tâche, c'est moi. Most of you might find that boring, but I love to plan meetings, write e-mails, deal with nitty gritty details. Une bonne administration est le fondement de tout bon comité. How am I qualified? I'm patient, I'm persistent, I'm organized and I'm ready to take on the challenge. I was in charge of the admin for the recent fashion show held at Le Living, which was a resounding success. It shows my devotion and my desire to be involved. Cet engagement, je crois, sera ma force en tant que VP Administration.

VP Administration: Eliza Cohen



My name is Eliza Cohen. I'm 19 years old and running for election as VP Administration. I'm a hard-working First Year student who strives to be involved in the LSA and student life at the Faculty. Here are ten reasons why you should vote for ME next week in the LSA elections:

1) I have administrative experience, including managing my high-school newspaper and student-run conference (Destiny Quebec);

2) I can wiggle my ears simultaneously and separately;

3) I was a member of my high-school's student government and therefore have experience relating to student governing bodies;

4) I play classical clarinet and trumpet;

5) I am extremely organized and efficient;

6) I can place all 50 American states on a map, despite being a native Montrealer;

7) I am detail-oriented and as such will help keep the LSA running as smoothly as possible;

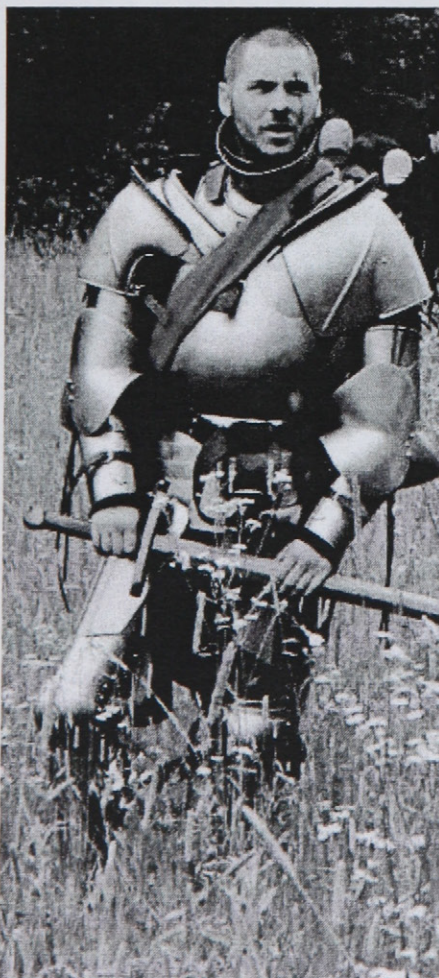
8) I had a play date with actress Jane Seymour's kids when I was 10.

9) I intend to disseminate any information I receive with efficiency and accuracy;

10) Every year until my 17th birthday, a part of me still believed that I would receive a letter from Hogwarts.

Thanks, and please VOTE ELIZA!

VP Academics: Julien Grenier



I would have liked to explain why you should vote for me as your LSA VP-Academics but since I've been acclaimed, I guess there really isn't much point! I will, therefore, use this opportunity to thank you for your trust.

Avant d'être admis à la Faculté de droit, j'ai obtenu un diplôme en génie chimique de l'École Polytechnique de Montréal. Au cours de ces années là-bas, j'ai eu l'occasion d'occuper le poste de VP-Éducation de l'Association pendant trois ans. Cette expérience devrait m'aider à défendre vos intérêts au cours de l'année à venir.

À titre de VP-Academics j'entends rester à votre écoute pour m'assurer de pleinement représenter vos intérêts et vos droits aux différentes instances de la Faculté. À cet effet, je vous invite

dès maintenant à communiquer directement avec moi pour discuter des dossiers qui vous préoccupent.

Once again, thank you for your vote of confidence: trust me, you won't regret your choice (even if you didn't really choose). In fact, as your VP-Academics I promise (on my knight's honor) to fight to the death for your rights and, if need be, heads will roll!

Julien Grenier

President: Stefan Hoffman

Editor's Note: Stefan Hoffman will have an article in next week's Quid.

Congratulations to Randall Blom (Law II) on being elected Law Senator!

Note:

No candidates have been nominated for Class President IV

Editorial Continued...

will look for any form of summary to cut down on reading time (sound familiar?). In addition, Professor Clifford Nass, of Stanford University, has noticed a remarkable change in the way young people write: students no longer write essays; rather, they write in paragraphs. Today, there is less of a notion of a big idea carried throughout a piece of writing. Students now tend to write in staccato-like bursts of energy where paragraphs are unlinked and connections fall into a literary abyss. What quickly becomes evident in student essays is that writing is about short-term gains as opposed to big-picture ideas.

I am not going to lie. After writing the preceding two paragraphs, I took a break. I needed a siesta after writing 280 words. How sad am I?

Even after writing a paragraph on the rise of paragraph writing, I still felt the need to reward myself by going on facebook and checking my two email accounts. It was reflexive. This is legitimately upsetting to me. The documentary also forced me to revisit my undergraduate experience. I came to the following realization: I cannot remember ever being assigned an entire book to read for any of my courses during my three years as a sociology student of McGill. Yes, I read chapters from Alexis de Tocqueville's *The Old Regime and the French Revolution*. Course syllabi definitely included selections of Max Weber and Karl Marx's works. I was never, however, assigned to read *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*. Nor was I asked to read *The Communist Manifesto*. Always and only just snippets.

Is there a way to reverse this trend? Do we even want to? As law students, we live in an environment of perpetual reading. We also, however, thrive off the summary and celebrate textbooks written by Mossman & Flanagan because they cut down cases to the bare essentials. We all complain about not having enough time to read for all of our courses. A part of me thinks, however, that the "lack of time" excuse shields us all from accepting the reality that, at the end of the day, we don't really want to have the time to do all of our readings anyways. Maybe we are in fact the dumbest generation. This, of course, is all food for thought. Anyways, I have now written another paragraph. Time for another break.

Traffic Act 2 – Chicago

by Guillaume Ste-Marie (LAW I)

I woke up and had breakfast with oversized early-risers before calling Matt. I had met him in past travels, and he now had a job of some sort in the city. We hadn't talked for years, but he seemed irrationally excited to hear my voice. He suggested I crash on his couch that night. His job would take him to Milwaukee the following week, but his car was dead. In exchange for the hospitality, I'd drive north with him to his cabin for the weekend, and then I'd drop him off in Milwaukee. Sounded like a good deal, so I hit the road and made it to Chicago an hour later.

I stopped for gas in South Chicago before venturing further into the city, a sizeable mistake. The car wouldn't start again. I asked the station clerk if he had jumper cables, and if he knew of a me-

chanic in the area... a car shouldn't just stop working in the middle of summer. "Son, you picked the wrong place to breakdown. It's the ghetto here, n*****s everywhere." This is awkward, I thought. He was definitely Black. As were the customers in the station. To some extent, his statement was true. It was factual, but he made it sound like a friendly warning. He suggested I drive way north, past the Loop, to a specific Jiffy Lube and get them to check if the alternator was ok, so I did that. Driving through mid-day Chicago highway traffic with a stick transmission and the fear that the car could decide to stop working any minute was somewhat stressful, but I made it there safely and got the thing fixed.

Matt sure didn't feel like wasting time.

His job was stressful, he said, so we started drinking from his flask before stepping through the door of his flat. "I got some weed here, take a few hits. I'll take a quick shower and we'll leave". We ended up in a shady dive on the lowest level of Wacker Drive; events got blurry. The sun was still up when we got there, that I know for sure. And it was dark when we left, but I definitely got a glimpse of dawn before blacking out. There is this thing about Americans and their drinks. I come from a place where the legal drinking age is merely a suggestion. By age 15, you've already got a good idea of how much you can drink before things get too wild to handle. But Americans, they have that underage prohibition thing working against them. When they hit 21, they feel the urge to make up for those lost years, and regardless of your tolerance for the stuff, they'll drag you to their level and make you drink like a kid again.

"Fuck man, it's morning afternoon already?" Matt's general definition of time was strange but accurate. We got up, washed our dried-out mouths with light lager and started packing for the cabin. We got in the car and the engine rolled fine. "Damn, forgot something". He stormed in and out of the apartment in an instant and came back with a pint-sized metal bottle. "Ha! You forgot we'd get thirsty up there? Rum? Gin? Not tequila, please no." "Chill man, it's milk, for tomorrow morning." His foresight and my lack thereof shook me. Maybe I should start planning things more than a few hours in advance.

We sped through small towns smoking cheap cigars and listening to downbeat music as the sun set. He still had his flask, all was not lost.



Not Rocket Surgery

by Michael Shortt (LAW I)

With papers, memos, factums, etc., all coming due this month, and exams just around the corner, this week's column focuses on places to study on campus. Since although the law library is gorgeous, sometimes we all need a change of scenery. I've grouped alternative study spots thematically, depending on whether you're looking for isolation, inspiration or collaboration (i.e. group study).

1) Isolated: If you're looking for quiet, secluded study space, there are surprisingly few places to go on campus, since McGill's libraries are typically packed with students... at least during exams. The following places are a bit farther from the beaten path than most.

4th floor McLennan: This is where I wrote my thesis last summer, and if you're looking for a productivity-boosting study space it's hard to beat. The 4th floor is typically deserted and hence very quiet. It's also climate-controlled since it's next to the Rare Books section (below) which means that during the summer it's one of the few tolerably cool study spots on campus. During winter it can get a little chilly if you're susceptible to cold. The only downside to working on the 4th floor is that there are very few power outlets, so if you have a laptop you'll need to arrive early to guarantee electricity access.

Blackader-Lauterman Library: The social sciences library is divided in to two main areas: McLennan (the tall part) and Redpath (the flat part). Hidden behind Redpath is the Blackader-Lauterman Art and Architecture library, which offers plateglass windows (Although they aren't as nice as the Birks Reading Room, below) and plenty of study space. Wireless and power outlets are easily accessible. To get there enter Redpath library and take the stairwell next to the course reserve loans desk.

McLennan newspaper room: In the Southwest corner of the first floor of the McLennan library, hidden around a corner, you'll find a sunny and well-appointed reading room. Surprisingly few people know about this "study nook," which is a shame given that it's easily accessible and a pleasant place to study. There's natural sunlight throughout the day, plenty of power outlets and a variety of work spaces available.

2) Inspiring:

Birks Reading Room: Located on the second floor of the Birks Chapel on University Street, the Birks Reading Room sets the standard for inspiring study spaces. The architecture is beautiful and even the furniture dates from a more civilized era. Plate glass windows coexist with plentiful power outlets and wireless internet. Even at peak times, there tend to be study spaces available, since too few people know about this hidden gem.

Islamic Studies Tower: For the most part the Islamic Studies library is a typical McGill library. A bit warmer than most, but otherwise unremarkable. The exception to this is the tower reading room, which is a gorgeous 19th-century structure. To reach it, stay right immediately after entering the library and walk as far back in to the library as possible. You'll know it when you see it. Usage varies, but the tower room is always quite and relaxing. Wireless is available, but there are no electricity outlets in the tower.

Rare Books: Located on the 4th floor of the McLennan library (the tall part of the social science library), this room houses McGill's collection of antique or limited-edition books. It also contains 20 well-lit reading spaces in a classically-decorated reading room. These spaces are usually empty, since few people realize that they open to all students, and fewer still go through the registration process (you'll also

need photo ID each time you visit). The space itself is beautiful and nearly-silent. Wireless is available, but electricity outlets are scarce.

3) Collaboration: One of the library administration's priorities has been to increase the amount of group study space available on campus. Many of these areas can be reserved online by logging on to your library account then clicking the "room booking" link on the right hand side of your account homepage.

Schulich Science and Engineering Library: Level five of the Schulich library is reserved for group study, with large tables and zero noise restraints. You can reserve rooms or just show up and find a table in the common area, although there's a lot of demand for these spaces so it's not guaranteed.

Cybertheque Pods: In case you're wondering, yes, that *is* their official name. Located in the newly-renovated basement of the Redpath library, the "pods" are glass-walled rooms with a table, chairs and IT resources inside. Some have whiteboards as well. You can reserve pods online (they fill up quickly, so the chance of finding an available pod without a reservation is almost nil.)



Passing the Québec Bar – part 4

by Narimane Nabahi (LAW Alumnus)

In the first part of this series of articles, I addressed issues that preceded the actual classes at the Québec Bar. The second part dealt with the issue of books and papers. The third part focused on the day to day classes. This one will tackle the bar from a chronological perspective. And once again, it's time to switch to French.

Disclaimer: insert your favorite warning here – this is simply my personal opinion. Dates, requirements, exam structure, just about everything can change, so use your own judgment when reading this article.

L'approche chronologique, les examens

En regardant le calendrier de l'École du Barreau, trois dates sautent aux yeux. La première, moins de deux semaines après le début des cours professionnels, est celle de l'examen de déontologie. La seconde, autour de la treizième semaine, est celle de la deuxième évaluation notée. Et finalement, après 4 mois de cours, les deux journées de l'examen final. J'ai donc divisé ma ligne du temps en trois périodes.

Le premier tiers – Déontologie

Bien que je qualifie cette partie de « tiers », cette partie dure en réalité moins de deux semaines. Sept jours pour apprendre une nouvelle matière – la déontologie – et la huitième journée pour faire un examen sur cette même matière. S'il y a, je crois, un endroit où l'on observe le mieux la différence entre le programme du matin et celui de l'après-midi, c'est bien ici. En effet, les élèves qui assistent aux cours de l'après-midi ont approximativement seize heures entre le moment où ils finissent leur cours et l'examen qui a lieu

le lendemain. En supposant que l'on a besoin de dix heures pour dormir, manger et se déplacer, cela laisse donc 6 heures aux étudiants de l'après-midi pour digérer la matière de la dernière journée et accomplir les derniers préparatifs en vue de l'examen. Les étudiants du matin ont presque deux fois plus de temps pour ces mêmes préparatifs.

Le conseil ici, c'est de commencer du bon pied, et surtout de commencer à étudier avant le « Jour 1 ». Il faut donc avoir déjà lu ses lois et la Collection de droit. Il ne faut pas attendre le Jour 7 pour commencer à faire d'anciens examens pour se faire une idée du genre de questions que l'on peut retrouver à l'examen. Et bien sûr, pendant les sept jours, il faut bien faire ses annexes et ne pas attendre la dernière soirée pour inscrire ses renvois.

Note pour nos amis anglophones : Because the book containing the laws on ethics is only in French, the Bar school allows you to bring printed laws in English. You should do this well in advance, and for people in the fall of 2009, you had to submit your printouts for approval the day before the exam. Therefore, if you plan to do this, do not leave the printing until the last minute.

Si le simple fait que le premier examen est noté ne suffit pas à vous convaincre de commencer du bon pied, considérez ces deux facteurs. Premièrement, la note du premier examen vous suivra jusqu'au bout du chemin. C'est 15% de votre note finale. On ne peut pas reprendre cet examen, même à la reprise. Bref, il n'y a rien de plus déprimant ou énervant que de traîner un 4/15 pendant 16 semaines. De plus, ceux qui ont moins de 9/15, donc moins de 60%, sont conviés à une formation obligatoire de 6h sur la déontologie. Celle-ci a lieu en plein milieu de la 10^{ième} semaine. Bref, c'est ce qui s'appelle en bon anglais un « double whammy ». Quitte à ne pas réussir un des deux premiers

examens, mieux vaut encore rater le second.

Le premier tiers se finit souvent par un ou deux ateliers thématiques, ou une journée de congé pour ceux qui ne choisissent pas de faire les ateliers thématiques offerts juste après le premier examen. Et lorsque ces 9 premiers jours sont finis, on entre dans le cœur du programme.

Le deuxième tiers – droit des affaires, droit civil

La deuxième partie du programme, qui dure de la troisième semaine à la dixième semaine, se concentre principalement sur le droit des affaires et le vaste monde du droit civil. Ce deuxième sujet est en effet bien vaste : droit de la famille, priorités et hypothèques, droit des obligations, preuve et procédure...

Je dois dire que ce départ a été assez brutal, puisqu'au jour 10, on découvre le dossier maître en droit des affaires. Ce dossier est centré autour d'une question de roulement, dont je vous laisse le soin de découvrir les avantages et inconvénients. D'ailleurs, ceux qui ne peuvent pas attendre peuvent toujours aller lire le bulletin d'interprétation sur ce sujet (<http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/F/pub/tp/it291r3/it291r3-f.html>), et ceux qui cherchent à faire un roulement peuvent contacter le cabinet de Chantal, D'Amour, Fortier (<http://www.dcdaf.qc.ca/fr/index.asp>). Mon professeur est un associé dans ce cabinet, et il a eu la tâche difficile de nous expliquer et réexpliquer les étapes nécessaires pour faire un roulement.

Le droit des affaires est donc abordé autour d'une situation de roulement, et les concepts plus traditionnels, comme le rachat d'actions ou les différentes catégories d'actions, sont souvent liés au roulement. Ces sujets ne sont pas nécessairement compliqués, mais lors-

qu'on y ajoute un sujet qui peut nous échapper (ici, le roulement), on peut s'y perdre. Il m'a donc fallu quelques jours pour me sentir à l'aise avec le dossier maître, et je sais que plusieurs étudiants de ma classe ont trouvé le droit des affaires assez difficile.

Les sujets ne sont pas tous traités en une seule séquence. Par exemple, on fait du droit des affaires du jour 8 au jour 11, puis du jour 26 au jour 29. Même chose pour preuve ou procédure. Il est donc utile d'étudier ces sujets entre les deux périodes pour déterminer si on a des questions que l'on pourra poser lorsque le sujet est de retour au menu.

Les activités de rédactions se déroulent presque toutes durant le deuxième tiers. Lors de ces activités, on rédige en classe un document juridique tels une requête ou un contrat. Tel que mentionné dans le premier article, il est impératif de faire tous ces exercices, car on ne sait pas quel sujet sera abordé dans le deuxième examen. Si vous avez des doutes, voici la consigne que nous avons reçue deux semaines avant l'examen :

L'évaluation notée 2 comportera deux dossiers en droit civil. Elle visera d'une part votre compétence à établir un diagnostic ainsi qu'à choisir, élaborer et appliquer la solution en déterminant le droit applicable à une situation factuelle et d'autre part votre compétence à communiquer efficacement en appliquant les techniques de rédaction d'un acte de procédure.

Bref, avec un sujet si large, comment savoir s'il vaut mieux assister au cours où l'on rédige une requête introductive d'instance dans un dossier du droit de la famille (jour 38) ou celle où l'on rédige une requête dans un dossier d'hypothèques (jour 43)? La requête valait d'ailleurs 9 points sur 15 lors du deuxième examen.

Autre fait plus ou moins important, c'est dans cette période que l'on reçoit notre première note, plus d'un mois après l'examen. Et c'est donc aussi dans cette période qu'on fait les six heures « bonus » de déontologie si on a eu moins de 9/15 à l'examen.

Ce deuxième tiers se conclut par la deuxième évaluation. Fait amusant, l'évaluation tombe en plein milieu d'un module, celui du droit administratif. Inutile de préciser que nous n'étions pas très présents au cours du vendredi précédant l'examen. Ma suggestion serait néanmoins de ne pas rater de cours puisqu'un sujet peut non seulement être à l'examen final, mais aussi à celui de la reprise. D'ailleurs, le droit administratif faisait partie de l'évaluation finale.

Le dernier tiers – droit du travail, droit pénal

Cette partie ne dure que cinq semaines, et contient deux des activités les plus mémorables au Barreau, soit la négociation et la plaidoirie. Dans ce bloc, on traite principalement de deux sujets, soit le droit du travail et le droit pénal. Dès que ce bloc est entamé, nous avons reçu l'avis pour l'examen final. Il faut donc, théoriquement, se servir de ces semaines pour étudier en vue de l'examen final en plus de faire nos annexes. Ce qui est particulier c'est que le module de droit pénal est non seulement long (7 jours), mais très intense : les annexes du jour 61 ont été finies au jour 62, celle du jour 62 au jour 63, etc. Si quelqu'un essaye de faire correctement ses annexes en droit criminel, il ne reste plus beaucoup de temps pour réviser les sujets de l'examen final. Et lorsque la plaidoirie se conclut, au jour 71, il ne reste plus que 4 ou 5 jours pour étudier avant l'examen final.

La négociation

Les exercices de négociation ont lieu dans le cadre du module sur le droit du travail. Ils ont d'abord lieu en classe, dans les cours réguliers. Par exemple, certains élèves représentent la partie syndicale tandis que d'autres représentent la partie patronale. Ces exercices culminent par une activité obligatoire que l'on doit réussir : une négociation avec un autre élève. Nous avons reçu une feuille contenant des faits secrets, et nous avons comme objectif la négociation d'une convention collective. Il fallait préparer nos positions, bien com-

prendre les balises dictées par la loi, etc. Cette négociation a lieu devant notre professeur. Chaque élève est jumelé avec un autre élève et ces deux élèves doivent se présenter à une heure précise.

Bien que cette activité soit obligatoire, à ma connaissance, personne ne l'échoue. Un peu comme les plaidoiries de deuxième année à McGill, il faudrait arriver totalement non préparé pour ne pas réussir. Je suis certain qu'il y a des exceptions chaque année, mais ce n'est pas la règle. De ce fait, beaucoup de gens ne prennent pas cette activité au sérieux. Ma suggestion est de la prendre au sérieux et de bien s'y préparer. D'un côté, je comprends le dilemme : pourquoi sacrifier de précieuses heures d'études pour un exercice que de toute façon l'on va passer? Mais d'un autre côté, on a la chance de pratiquer nos méthodes de négociation, et surtout de recevoir de bons commentaires du professeur qui va nous observer. Quelle est l'utilité d'avoir un professeur qui nous dit comme commentaire principal qu'il faut mieux se préparer? Ces exercices de négociations sont aussi l'occasion d'essayer de différentes manières de négocier. Il faut donc profiter de ce genre d'occasion qui ne se présente pas tous les jours, quitte à laisser de côté pour plusieurs heures le Code civil ou les anciens examens.

La plaidoirie

Si la négociation n'a pas d'impact majeur sur l'examen final, la plaidoirie en est tout autrement. Cinq semaines avant les jours de plaidoiries, qui sont en fait les trois derniers jours de cours, nous avons reçu un courriel nous demandant de choisir notre sujet de plaidoirie. Trois sujets sont offerts : droit civil, droit pénal et droit du travail (CSST). Le sujet aura un impact sur la plaidoirie, puisque quelqu'un qui choisit le droit pénal fera sa plaidoirie sur un cas de droit pénal, etc. Mais plus important, le sujet pourra avoir un impact sur l'examen final : celui qui choisit droit pénal aura baigné trois jours de plus dans le droit pénal que ces confrères. Tous les sujets ne se retrouvent pas à l'examen final. Dans mon cas, j'ai été

« chanceux » puisque j'ai choisi droit pénal, et j'ai vraiment eu la chance de mieux comprendre le droit pénal, ce qui m'a nettement aidé à l'examen final. Il ne faut pas oublier qu'on choisit son domaine du droit avant de recevoir la liste des sujets pour l'examen final.

Bref, beaucoup choisissent un sujet particulier en pensant qu'il est plus facile que les autres. J'ai entendu dire que certains ont pris le sujet du droit du travail car nous avons déjà travaillé sur le problème utilisé lors des plaidoiries. Personnellement, je choisirais un sujet qui va aider à comprendre une matière plus difficile. Dans mon cas, le droit criminel fut un excellent choix puisque

c'était quelque chose d'assez vague pour moi.

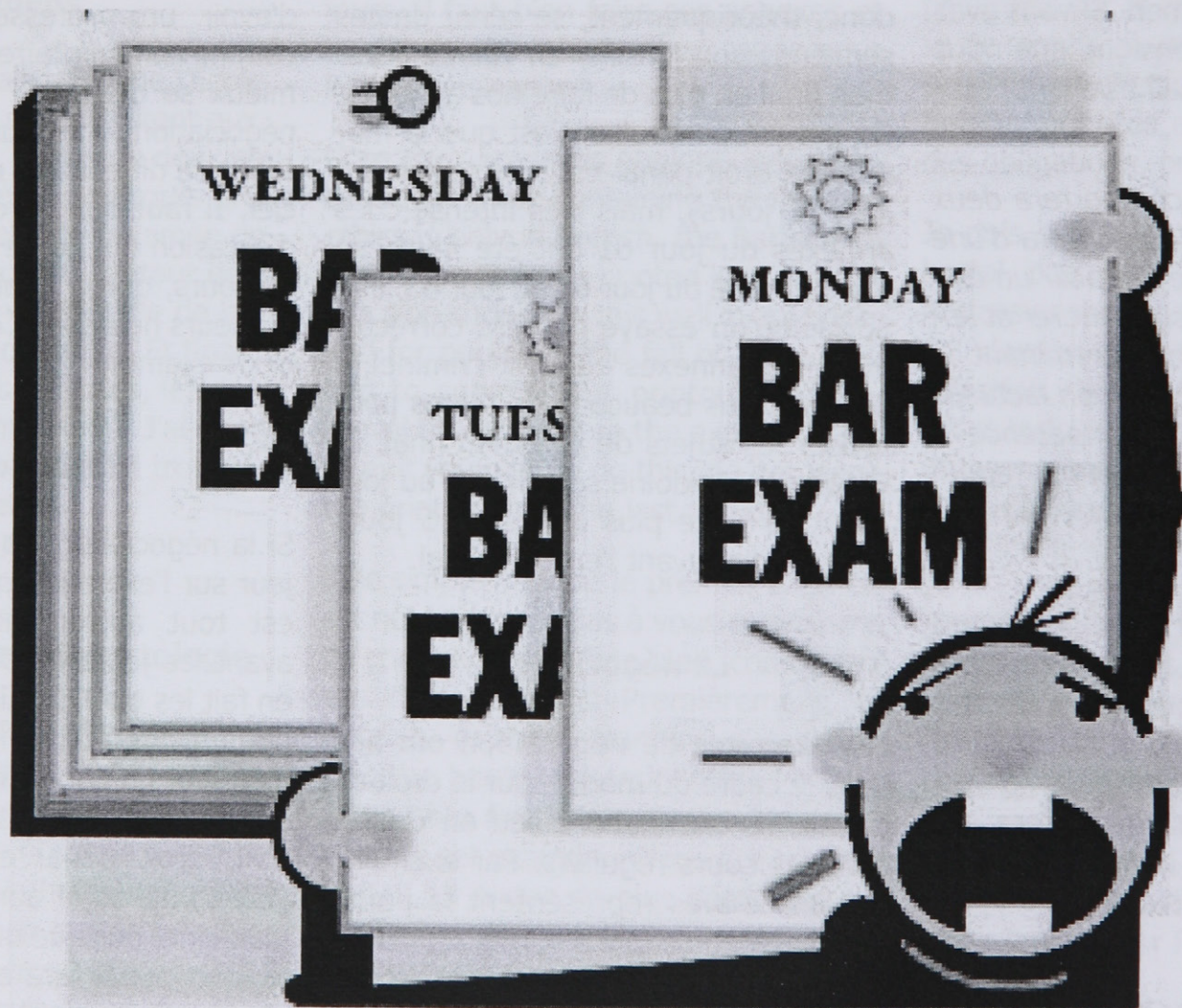
Finalement, comme pour la négociation, je trouve dommage de ne pas s'investir à fond dans cet exercice. Certes, l'examen final est à moins de 7 jours des plaidoiries, mais ce n'est pas les 10 heures de préparation qui fera la différence, surtout si on a bien étudié au cours du semestre. Nous avons la chance de recevoir des commentaires de praticiens sur nos techniques de plaidoiries. Il faut donc en profiter. Et pour bien en profiter, il faut comprendre ce qui est en preuve, comprendre sa loi ou son fardeau de preuve pour que les commentaires que l'on reçoit ne soient

pas reliés au simple fait qu'on a mal lu les faits par exemple.

Ce dernier tiers se conclut par l'examen final. Que dire sur cet examen, si ce n'est que je l'aborderai dans mon prochain article.

* * *

Et voici ce qui conclut ce quatrième article sur le Barreau. Dans le prochain article, j'aborderai la question particulière des examens et de la préparation aux examens. Si vous avez des questions, n'hésitez pas à les envoyer à nari-mane.nabahi à (@) mail.mcgill.ca.



Skit Nite "Latin Terms" Lyrics

by Brett Hodgins (LAW II)

After I performed in Skit Nite last week, several people suggested I submit the lyrics for my song to the *Quid*, since they went by so quickly in the actual performance. Please find them below. For context, I've also included the lyrics from my original "Latin Term" song from last year's Skit Nite – never before published!

"More Latin Terms" (Skit Nite 2010)

To the tune of "Modern Major General" from Gilbert & Sullivan's "Pirates of Penzance"

Ad infinitum is the upper limit of a lawyer's fee
Pro rata is a skilled rodent like Remy from Ratatouille
 Counter-intuitively English is the *lingua franca* now
 But to cover your bases you should also learn to say *ni hao*
 The *contra proferentem* rule says if your term is vague you lose
In terrorem is when you hide bombs inside underwear or shoes
 And *non est factum* means you'd rather not be an ace or a star
 While *fiat* is the absolute worst possible Italian car

When you're caught red-handed then it's *in flagrante delicto*
 And *mutatis mutandis* is Professor X or Magneto
Habeas corpus – some old rule they don't need in Guantanamo
 And Rod Macdonald's *sine qua non* is a tie done in a bow

Caveat emptor means that after buying you are pretty screwed
Pro bono means that you support the singer from the band U2
 The *Corpus Juris Civilis* was written by Justinian
 To me a morning class is just a *forum non conveniens*
A posteriori Sir Mix-A-Lot likes big and

he can't lie
Inter vivos is all the fun of a will except you don't die
 To volunteer opinions you can be an *amicus curiae*
De minimus means rarer than a meeting of the LSA

Persona non grata is someone so despised to you they're dead
 Like me with LSA executives after what I just said
 And *quasi's* like those readings that I kind of only sorta read
 And *innuendo's* any phrase that's followed by "that's what she said"

For the modern law these words are like a dear linguistic mother
 But thank god the Romans died out so there won't be any others

"The Latin Term Rag" (Skit Nite 2009)

To the tune of "The Vatican Rag" by Tom Lehrer

A priori can be taken as such
In loco parentis means your folks are nuts
 With ownership comes more to boot
 Like *usufruct, usufruct, usufruct!*

Quid pro quo trades piece for piece
 Like "Silence of the Lambs" – Hello Clarice
 A creditor can topple against promissory *estoppel*
 Doin' the latin term rag

Ratio decides proceedings
 While *obiter's* what fills the readings and
 If your favourite judge is *puisne*
 Then have a glass of *jus commune*

If it's *ultra vires* then never fear
Sui generis just means you're weird
 A matter is *moot* when it's pointless
 Like reading all your legal meth

De facto just means the default
 Like Bs with our exam results
 Keep rights *in rem* on all your loot
 For *usufruct, usufruct, usufruct!*

Who the hell still uses Latin?
 Lawyers, taxonomists, and the Vatican
Veni vidi vici, gee you're lookin' peachy
 Doin'the latin term – elephant, *pachyderm* -
 Doin'the latin term rag!

DROIT À L'IMAGE

Prof. Klinck: "Who was that American poet... she didn't leave her house for twenty years... Emily Dickinson! Emily Dickinson, she was CLEARLY residing..."

Prof. Jukier: It's the palais de justice – that big, black, ugly, Kafkaesque building that nobody likes.

Prof. Jukier: "This is not a substantial course – we do not talk substantive law – it's... well... the Dean calls it an adjectival course, but I don't want to be an adjective, I want to be a noun!"

Prof. Jukier: My husband is a Udm grad and he gets the alumni magazine, I sometimes flip through it before putting it in the blue box

Prof. Jukier: In the salle, the judge sits not robed. I mean, he's clothed, but not robed!

Prof. Jukier: "You can't just argue that 'it's not fair!' – I get that on first year exams. That doesn't work with your parents, and it doesn't work in court!"

Prof. Jukier: I'm not surprised that none of you wrote in your personal statements 'I want to learn civil procedure'

Prof. Klein: "Let's see... what's a good name that starts with G....G... GUNTHER!"

Prof. Klein: "There are worse initials than KGB.... Let's... let's not talk about them"

Prof. (REDACTED): "The litigant, no, the witnesses, no... the DECLARANT... G-D DAMMIT!"

Prof. (REDACTED): "Sometimes kids yell things for no reason, but as adults it's different.. I'm not sitting at Faculty Council next to Prof. Megret and suddenly yelling OW! He touched me! For no reason!"

Prof. Klinck: That's her worry - "If I give him a fee simple he's gonna go to the casino, and... bye bye fee simple estate!"

Prof. Klinck: You can use property to encourage emotional dispositions – that's why I try to stay poor!

Prof. Jukier: "Did Lord Denning just wake up and decide one morning 'let me come up with a new injunction'.... Well, probably."

Prof. Klein: "I don't think liking pigs is proof that one is lacking testamentary capacity"

Prof. Jukier: It's hard to hide an elephant, but not hard to hide a USB key!

Prof. Jukier: "Speaking of the interlocutory injunctions, there is a very interesting book... actually, it's not that interesting..."

Prof Crépeau: [Et] Heureusement que les soldats marocains tirent mal, comme la plupart des soldats d'ailleurs.

Prof. Janda: I realised this week that I'm actually a day ahead in the readings schedule. I assure you that this is a departure from my usual relationship with time.

Prof. Sklar: Want some advice? Don't drink and drive a train!

Prof. Sklar: Don't let them sweep the stairs if they're on dope - you could hit someone with a mop ... in the eye!

Prof. Sklar: Justice Douglas climbed mountains well into his seventies... He was a very virile man.

Prof. Dedek: "The cow was named Rose... I don't know a lot of cow names. Amber. Or Ginger."

1L: [whispering]: Those are all stripper names.

Charlie Feldman (LAW II)

Dedek: So was there a breach of contract?

Student 1: [puts up hand] I have a question...

Dedek: NO! I need an answer.

Student 1: Then I don't know.

Dedek: [pause] That's a B+ in McGill terms.

[another student puts hand up, gets called upon]

Student 2: Yes.

Dedek: Why?

Student 2: I don't know.

Dedek: A-.

Prof. [Redacted]: "I wanted you to see both common and civil law approaches to the topic before reading week. Not to be confused with spring break."

(In the library)

SNAIL 1: So he saw you across the room but didn't come to say hi AND he ignored your text message?

SNAIL 2: Yeah!!

SNAIL 1: Wait, aren't you guys past the, like, game playing stage?

SNAIL 2: Apparently not...

Med-SNAIL: Le droit au consentement au soins je m'en fous. Je les traite tous.

2L: Moi ya l'intégrité...

Med-SNAIL F*** l'intégrité. Tu seras intègre quand tu seras mort.

2L female- (re: fashion show): Those bitches neeeeed me on the catwalk!!!!

From the recruitment pamphlet of [redacted] LLP "December can actually have 31 working days"

1L: Do they really think that's a selling point? That we'll have to miss Christmas with our families?? Who works at that firm - bizarro people who enjoy work more than play and have black goatees like that episode of Star Trek?

2L: She's like the factum - she's been with every second year!

2L: You're one to talk when you're easier than the first-year moot... (the above is rejected content from Skit Nite...)

DROIT À L'IMAGE

Charlie Feldman (LAW II)

3L: I have come to learn that 'high me' acts in a very different way from 'regular me'

1L: This memo will kill me. No, like, literally, I've had dreams about lying in a pool of blood watching the civil code run away laughing

2L: Seriously, if Lady Gaga just put her phone on silent this whole mess could have have been avoided!

1L: I woke up and I was like 'it's March'... wtf have I been doing with mylife these past few months?!

2L: That's why we need to get rid of wills - we can't keep letting dead people control the lives of the living!!

2L: "I'm very excited to take part in pleading for oral!"

2L: "Uhh....."

2L: "OMG! I meant in the oral pleading... G-d... I made the same mistake last night"

2L: This is how bad I was procrastinating - I came up with a love story between Mossman & Flanagan - I was planning the wedding and their vows were just "to x for life" and I knew it had gone too far...

(This is the Quid's favourite submission for the week - if you don't get it, Mossman and Flanagan are the authors of Klinck's CML prop book, and well, we talk a fair bit about property transfer and the words that make it happen...)

3L: Charlie, listen, third-year is the most boring time of your life, cause it's like... an insufferable wait. Not the 'I'm waiting for the pregnancy test result' excitement or scared type of wait, but the 'I'm waiting to get a cavity filled and I-don't-want-to-be-here' type of wait'

1L: He was about as insipid as the black eyed peas - tonight is NOT gonna be a good night!

2L: We need another reading week... but this time I actually do the reading.

1L: This is so.... dumb-founding. Either there are a lot of upper-years with smiles despite getting B-minuses or I really am stupider than the rest...

-- Skit Nite --

2L: Seeing Prof. Van Praagh at Skit Nite really makes me want to take her for something!!

3L: Okay, so, Charlie, was Prof. Janda's thing for serious.... or....
Well, let me put it this way: did I miss something?

1L: OH! I am so doing Skit Nite next year!!!!

Charlie: Everyone says that....

2L: Wasn't there supposed to be some sort of lady gaga medley law school musical thing?

Charlie: Yes, but as Skit Nite shaped up we realized we had too many musical numbers...

2L: It had better happen next year or else!!

3L: Okay, so I was thinking, there were two first-year obligations profs singing about obligations, but, like, next year it should be part II and have all the advanced obs profs doing a number. Like, Smith, Gold, Adams, Dedek all together so, that's ... what ... three guys one girl ...

FLEETWOOD MAC!!! Oh man this has potential... just picture it!!

Charlie: Oh, I can picture it... it's just the sound that's a little... worrisome... well, I mean, I guess, I've never heard Adams sing, but, I mean, I'm just imagining that group doing 'Edge of Seventeen' in my head and I'm really not sure how I feel about it...

Actor: Well YOU thought secured transactions was about safe sex. Audience Member [earnestly, to another audience member]: It's not like that at all!!

// This was submitted to me, but, to be honest, we heard it from up on stage, too!

Charlie and Chanel's selected quoted lines from Skit Nite:

1. Just Sayin'
- Prof Klinck used this in class, just sayin'
2. "You can't do legal research to save your life - you thought Westlaw was Calgary recruitment!"
3. ... "Undersized lobsters" ...
4. Secured transactions (supra)
4.5 It's the end of the law as we know it!
5. We suddenly lose control / Obligations is in our soul!
6. Je me lève le matin, et j'm'assois sur mon nuage (Dean Jutras)

Charlie's favourite rejected line from Skit Nite:

(From Sex and the City): Yeah, all the boys in this faculty are such big talkers but they can never back it up- it's all obiter, very little dictum.

Submissions:
quid.charlie@gmail.com

Complaints:
quid.law@mail.mcgill.ca

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Skit Nite 2010

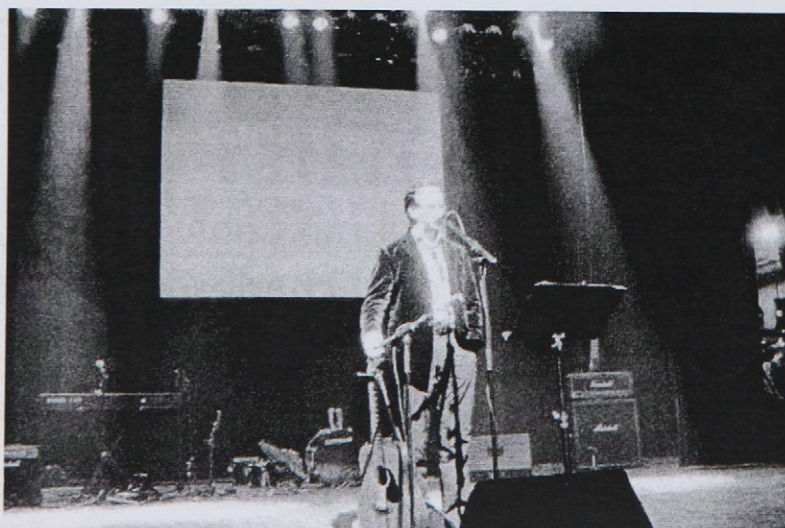
Charlie Feldman (LAW II)



Skit Nite 2010 was held on Tuesday, March 9th at Club Soda.

Photos:

- 1 - Personal Statement Stew
- 2 - Stage in the City
- 3 - Dean Jutras
- 4 - Profs. Jukier and Van Praagh



The Skit Nite Committee thanks Blakes for being our sponsor and congratulates all the participants on a job well done!!

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Dean Jutras - Skit Nite

Lyrics

Je suis doyen on me plaint et moi je plains tout le monde
Les coffres ne sont plus pleins et le budget vient de fondre
Dans un malheur comme le mien
Tu t'en, tu t'en moques
Vaut mieux faire semblant de rien

Je me lève le matin, et j'm'assois sur mon nuage
Les professeurs sont tous bien, les étudiant sont très sages
A quoi bon tant de pouvoir
Tu t'en, tu t'en moques
Je pars dernier tous les soirs

Je suis doyen on me plaint, et moi je plains tout le monde....

I've been roaming around / since becoming the Dean/ of the Faculty
Student faces / fill the classes / I can't teach

You know the world can use somebody

You know the world can use somebody

Someone like you / and all you know / and all you speak

Countless lawyers / helping people / on the streets

You know the world can use somebody

Someone like you Oh Oh

Off in the night / you read your coursepacks / and never sleep
Working hard / to learn the law / and get a B

Charlie Feldman (LAW II)

I hope its gonna make them notice
I hope its gonna make them notice
Someone like you Oh Oh
Someone like you – Somebody

I've been roaming around since becoming the Dean of the Faculty...

Skit Nite – On a personal note...

I would like to thank everyone who had a hand in making Skit Nite 2010 a success! A huge thank-you to all the performers who shared their time and talents, as well as those individuals who worked behind-the-scenes to make the evening possible. In particular, I'd like to thank my fellow committee members - Laura Easton and Steven Jegou - for their hard work and dedication, as well as Andréa Girardin and Abigail Becraft for all their assistance and willingness to help. And, of course, a huge thank you to the audience for showing up, and, well, not throwing things :-)

I am humbled by the overwhelmingly positive response to the evening, ranging from the student who sent me a note thanking me for 'making law school fun again' to Prof. Janda who (paraphrased) said 'It was one of the best Skit Nites ever, but, I can't say it's the best because the best was the one where I met my wife'. I'll take that!

Of course, I have received some critiques as well. Many thought there was too much focus on the factum, some expressed concern at the lack of French content. Other issues communicated to me include the program

running long (or having too long an intermission) as well as comments on individual skits – i.e. 'Dean Lametti's song went by too fast!' or 'That admissions thing was funny but it went on too long'. For sure there's no pleasing everyone, and, of course, I can't control everything!

That said, if you do have generalized feedback (i.e. comments on the venue, format, scheduling) that we can use for next year, do send it to the committee so that we can forward it to next year's organizers.

With regards to content concerns – lack of French, too much factum, repetitive jokes (i.e. too many about getting Bs, SNAILs) – I'd like to remind everyone that Skit Nite is a product of submissions. Certainly, the factum point is taken – I had a ten minute video in Act I and Ryan Gallant had a video (amazing job, Gallant!) of about twenty minutes in Act II – 30 minutes of factum content in (roughly) a three-hour show means a sixth of it was spent on the factum. The options were to run both videos, cut one of the videos (not fair to those involved) or to ask for an edit (not really possible if all the footage shot has been for one purpose, and it would stink to have someone show up to Skit Nite to

see themselves in a video only to find they've ended up on the cutting room floor last minute).

While there seemed to be no shortage of ideas sent my way, not many people followed through. Certainly, this is understandable given conflicting undertaking such as course-aux-stages. But, if there's content you want to see at Skit Nite – get on it! Start planning now! :-)

For those of you who missed the show, I think you missed out. But, that doesn't have to mean you have to be in the dark! If you'd like to see Skit Nite (or re-live some of your favourite moments) go to my facebook page and look for the note entitled 'Skit Nite 2010 - Where can I see _____?'. As people post links to things I'm updating that note. Not all content has been posted yet, so there aren't links for everything. If you do have anything from Skit Nite, please share it! Or, if you'd like to see the night in a nutshell, check out the latest edition of the Quid Online (look for 'Quid Novi - Droit McGill Law') on facebook.

Here's looking forward to Skit Nite 2011!

-Charlie

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Skit Nite - Food for Thought
(Adam LaFrance and Preeti Dhaliwal)

Good evening ladies and gentlemen,
Bonsoir messieurs et mesdames,

Welcome to another exciting installment of "Food for Thought", I'm your host Chef La France and this is my talented co-host Chef Dhaliwal.

Today we will be making a rich and hearty meal, a staple dish of the Law School application process that has been feeding the academic spirits of aspiring students, not to mention clogging the arteries of the admissions office, for years and years. That's right folks, today we will be making the McGill Law School Personal Statement Stew.

Before we begin, I want to thank all of those great cooks out there, you know who you are, who were willing to share these juicy morsels from their very own personal recipes. We could not make such a sumptuous dish without your contributions.

Let's get started:

The first ingredient in any successful Personal Statement Stew is a little bit of finely pureed narrative that will get those creative juices flowing and add some much needed flavour to what, let's be honest, can be an otherwise pretty bland dish. Some choices include:

"The cloudless August day ensured that the surrounding snow-capped peaks glistened from the sunlight, while the glacier lakes hued turquoise."

"Walking through the park area in front of the Redpath museum as well as the historic halls of the Arts Building, I could feel the energy and potential that this institution has."

"I had a personal romance with the charcoal permanently embedded under my fingernails, occasionally

looking down at my hands and whispering, with the coy shyness of infatuated youth, "Hello, you."

Next, be sure to add a dash of personal anecdote to help the meal stand out by giving it some unique flavour:

"Although lavender stopped enticing me beyond age six, law never did."

"My life thus far has been a constant reflection of my upbringing as a child of Iraqi refugees."

"I am white and I am male"

"Participatory learning is somewhat of a personal credo, and another reason I believe I would make an excellent addition to the McGill student body." Now that we're off to a good start, it's time to add the main ingredients of any McGill Personal Statement Stew, the meat & potatoes as it were, everyone's favourite made-up word, you know what I'm talking about:

"While it bears much narrower significance to society than Law, this transsystemic analysis of two linguistic systems is akin to the transsystemic analysis of the Common Law and Civil Law systems in McGill's law programme, and I will be glad to resume this type of intellectual challenge."

"I see an intrinsic intellectual virtue in the transsystemic approach to learning the law which has parallels to my current course of study. At present, I am enrolled in an intensive Ancient Greek course."

"At McGill, my living exercise in transsystemia can finally transcend the personal to become both intellectually and practically real."

At this point, you should have the makings of a hearty meal, but if you find that your Personal Statement Stew is rich on flavour but lacking on substance, you can always add some academic jargon and dense syntax to thicken things up a bit:

Charlie Feldman (LAW II)

"That is not to say that I view law school as an indoctrination, but rather as a form of emancipation insofar as it enables individuals to think critically outside the conceptual constraints in which most societal debates occur."

"Powerless to the norms of the mass, they reside as agents of a dehumanized process as they are not even granted a legitimate claim to personal agency that normative laws grant its citizens."

"Aided by a flexible methodology that facilitates interdisciplinary research, McGill also lays the perfect foundation for future graduate study in law – a venue I am keen to explore."

"Families are a basic social unit and their experiences reverberate across the entire social spectrum."

"I thrive in those intellectual settings where ideas tend to fight to the death or make friends and have a baby."

Your Personal Statement Stew is almost complete, but don't forget to add a massive grain of salt, preferably the self-deprecating kind, lest you be accused of laying it on too thick:

"If someone had told me ten years ago that when I was eighteen, I would be submitting an application to McGill University's Faculty of Law, I would have accused them of lunacy."

"I don't want to go to law school and I can't believe I'm writing this, but there comes a time when one has to realize that the dream of becoming a country singer is perhaps unrealistic."

By now, your stew should be coming along nicely. The next step is to turn down the heat of your prose and let the whole thing simmer for a bit to allow for a rich multicultural blend of ingredients ripe with pluralism instead of a 'melting pot' of mush.

"An eternal student, I approach travel-

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ing from a pedagogical perspective. I travel not to put tacks on a map or to accrue adventure stories, but to immerse myself in another's shoes, to open my eyes to other cultural perspectives."

"Multiculturalism isn't just something I support; it's something I am. I have in essence become a cultural chameleon; I adapt and become part of other cultures easily."

"It is this interest in the world's inherently pluralistic nature that makes McGill especially interesting to me. Uniquely, this pluralism is manifested in both the academic program and in the university's very location."

Finally, just before you serve your Personal Statement Stew, be sure to top it off with a sprinkling of heartfelt inspiration that will be sure to leave a good taste in the mouth of all those voracious readers on the admissions committee.

"I wish to see changes in the world and I'm willing to do all I can bring them about – if that means I'm required to be the first to walk on a certain path, I'm ready to run with all my heart."

"And I certainly look forward to striding up Peel Street next fall to embark on my next great challenge."

Now before we finish, one brief disclaimer for all those wannabe lawyers in the audience. While the recipe that I have just given you includes some of the finest literary ingredients known the world around, I unfortunately cannot guarantee that your Personal Statement Stew will turn out as well as the one we've just made.

That being said, I will you all the best and Bon Appétit!

Mamma Mia

Music by ABBA

Lyrics by Professors Jukier and Van Praagh

We were cheated by you and we think you know why

Law games, memos and moots,
What excuse will you try?

Look at us now, will we ever learn?

We don't know how, but we suddenly lose control

Obligations is in our soul

Just one case and you will hear the law sing

One more case and you will know everything

Oh, oh, oh, oh

Mamma Mia, here we go again

My, my, teaching first year students

Every time, it's the same again

My, my, teaching first year students

Is this is on the exam?

Please, please tell us Ma'am

No, no, that's not what's important

Mamma Mia, here we go again

My, my, teaching first year students

You're not talking in class and that's making us blue

We can't count all the times we have cried over you

Look at us now, will we ever learn?

We don't know how, but we suddenly lose control

Charlie Feldman (LAW II)

Obligations is in our soul

Just one case and you will hear the law sing

One more case and you will know everything

Oh, oh, oh, oh

Mamma Mia, here we go again

My, my, teaching first year students

Every time, it's the same again

My, my, teaching first year students

Yes, there's a heavy workload

You need to know your Civil Code

My, my, teaching first year students

Mamma Mia, we really love our jobs

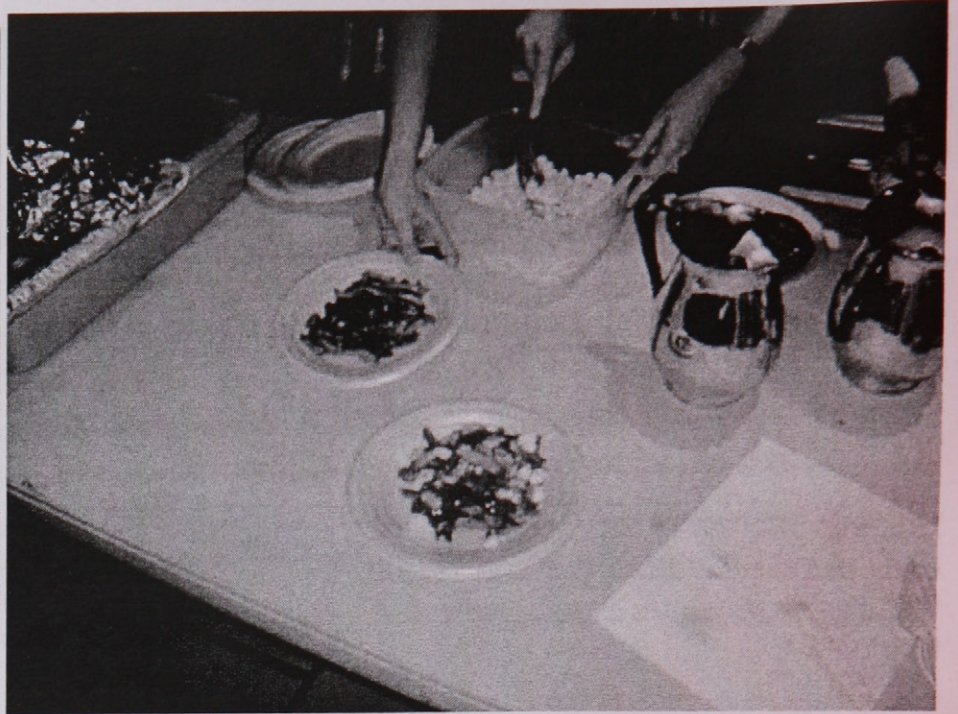
My, my, love you first year students

Mamma Mia, do you love us too?

My, my, no we can't resist you!

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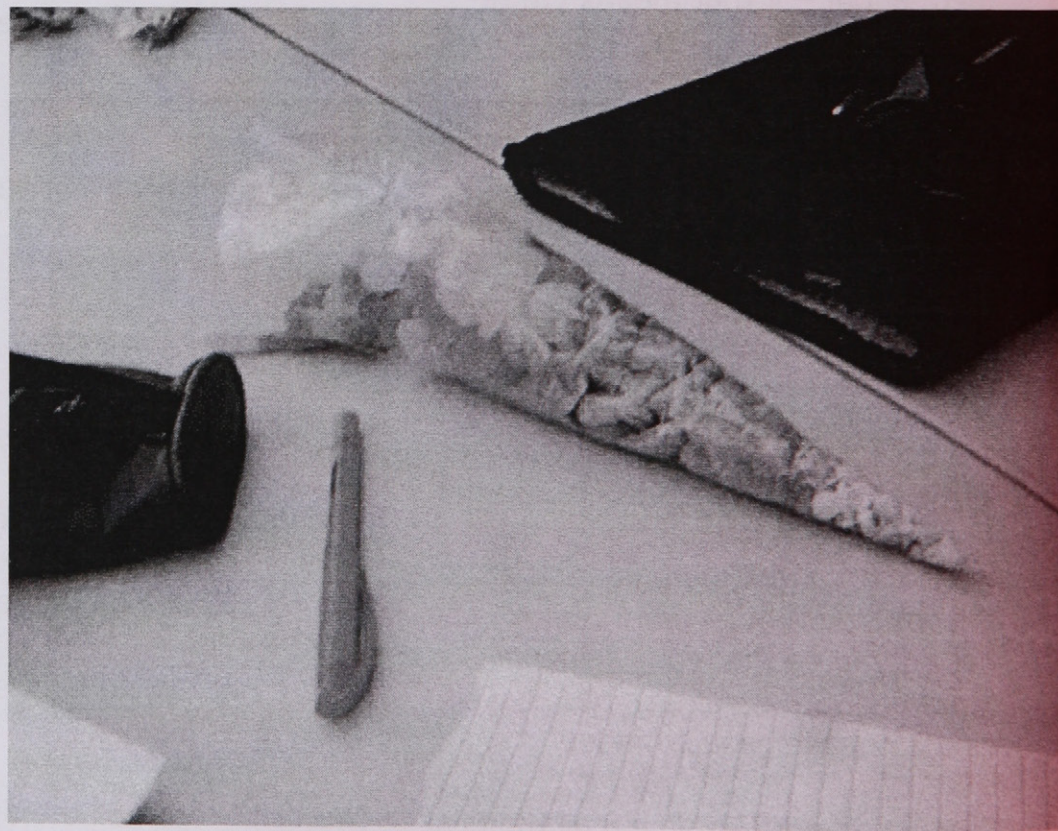
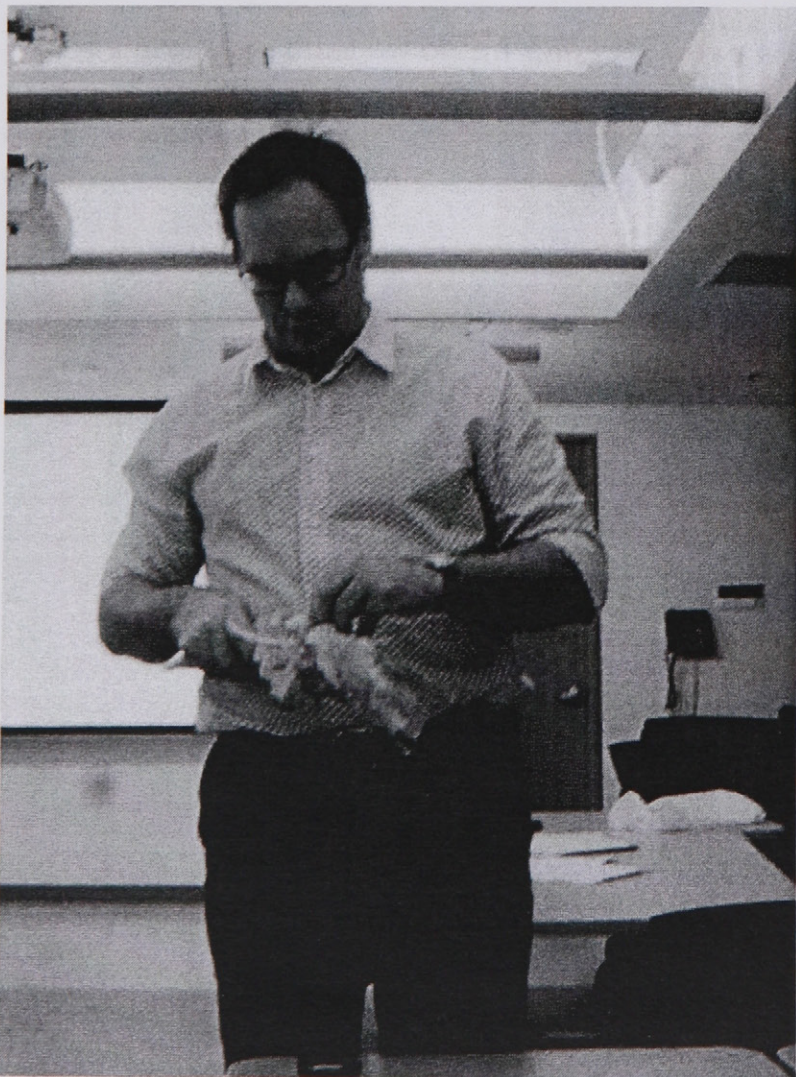
Charlie Feldman (LAW II)



Above Left: Quebec Dance Class in the Atrium

Charlie's note: I'm sorry to anyone who saw my dancing.. that was unforgivable...
Great job, everyone else!!

Above Right: Poutine at Coffeehouse



Candy from Dean Jutras in recours collectifs - note Sarah Walker's pencil case (upper-right). She's standing over me right now. It's kinda creepy... actually.... :-)

